



State of Connecticut

SENATE

SENATOR ART LINARES
THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421
E-MAIL: Art.Linares@cga.ct.gov
WEBSITE: www.SenatorLinares.com

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
RANKING MEMBER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 6, 2015

Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrera, and members of the
Transportation Committee,

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in support of Senate
Bill 198: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF
ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

When Henry Ford built the Model T, many people didn't think
Ford's vehicle would succeed.

And regulators tried to prevent it from being sold.

Today, we are seeing a similar issue with a new movement.

A movement to support an innovative method of transportation.

And this is a movement that I believe will change the world.

Tesla is an American car manufacturer.

Tesla's mission is to accelerate the world's transition to electric
mobility with a full range of increasingly affordable Electric
Vehicles.

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk recently said, "I'm nauseatingly pro-American. I would have come here from any country. The U.S. is where great things are possible."

Tesla's electric powered cars have received the highest ranking from Consumer Reports.

Tesla's new Model S was named Motor Trend Car of The Year.

The Model S also has been recognized as one of the safest vehicle on the road.

Tesla does not make ordinary cars.

In fact, they are far from ordinary.

The internal combustion engine automobile is one of the single greatest polluters in the world.

Tesla takes on that problem head on.

A Tesla goes nearly 300 miles on a single charge without any pollution.

At a time when our country is trying to rid itself of dependence on foreign oil, we should welcome the sale of fully electric Teslas with open arms.

I believe that more Teslas on the road will ultimately lead to lower gas prices.

Lower gas prices will result in more discretionary income for hard-working people, allowing them to spend their money the way they want.

Tesla sells its vehicles direct to consumers through its company owned stores and online.

Tesla can sell directly to consumers in about 35 other states.

In New York and Massachusetts, for example.

Tesla has installed charging stations all over the country, including along Interstates 95 and 84 in Connecticut.

And right now, lots of people are buying Tesla electric vehicles.

They're just not buying them here in Connecticut.

Because they can't.

Because in Connecticut, it's illegal for a car manufacturer to sell directly to a customer.

What we're trying to do here in Connecticut – by passing this legislation - is make an exemption for just Tesla to be able to open up their own stores and sell their cars directly to customers.

Try to explain to people in your districts why they can't buy a Tesla in Connecticut.

To test drive a Tesla, I traveled 90 minutes across state lines – to New York.

I eventually bought a Model S.

The experience made me think that just by passing this bill, we can create jobs here in Connecticut.

Tesla is growing, and would provide good-paying jobs if it could open showrooms in Connecticut.

Tesla is an innovative business.

They're creating jobs across the country.

But not here.

This bill seeks to change that.

This bill creates multiple opportunities which will benefit our economy and protect our environment.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 198.